

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>HEREFORDSHIRE LOCAL ADMISSION FORUM</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>14 JULY 2010</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS TO SCHOOL PLANNED ADMISSION NUMBERS</b>
<b>OFFICER:</b>	<b>ADMISSIONS AND TRANSPORT MANAGER</b>

**CLASSIFICATION:** Open

### **Wards Affected**

Potentially countywide

### **Purpose**

To consider changes to the Planned Admission Numbers (PAN) at Almeley, Canon Pyon and Madley Primary Schools.

### **Key Decision**

This is not a Key Decision.

### **Recommendations**

**THAT the Committee considers the individual school requests and the change in PAN at:**

- (a) Almeley Primary School is agreed.
- (b) Canon Pyon V C Primary School is agreed.
- (c) Madley Primary School is agreed.

### **Alternative Options**

No alternative options other than to refuse individual school PAN change requests.

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

- 1 It is the role of Herefordshire's Local Admission Forum to consider school requests for PAN changes and make decisions whether to agree or refuse such requests.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Andrew Blackman, Admissions & Transport Manager on (01432) 260927

## Introduction and Background

- 2 According to the new School Admissions Code section 1.17 “Admission authorities of maintained schools **must** set admission numbers with regard to the capacity of the school” and “Admission authorities are required to consult before setting or amending a published admission number”.

Herefordshire is currently experiencing a continued decline in the overall pupil numbers. This affects schools in different ways, with the additional affects of the Schools Admissions Code presumption to meet parental preference, subject to certain conditions. Overall funding to support pupils, schools and services is determined largely by the overall number of pupils. Local Authority services and schools are facing a number of pressures as a result which have led to redundancies and reconfigurations of Local Authority and school staff. A number of schools over the past year have requested changes in PAN, in part as a result of these pressures, or alternatively to expand their PAN to provide for increased demand in pupil numbers in arrangements that can be met in staffing and organisational terms.

Herefordshire Cabinet has requested that clusters of schools respond to the Herefordshire Schools Task Group work, by September 2010, with a formal evaluation of different options to feed into the creation of a strategic plan for Herefordshire.

The following schools have made specific requests within the context set out above:

### (a) Almeley Primary School

Almeley has requested an increase in its PAN from 9 to 11, giving rise to a revised school capacity of 77 pupils. For information the current makeup of places to be offered for its new year R starting in September 2010 is:

Category	Number
Statemented child	0
Catchment Sibling	1
Catchment	2
Sibling Out of Area	2
Out of Area	4
Total	9

There are currently no children on its waiting list based on the current PAN of 9.

There are currently 71 pupils on roll. Made up as follows:

Year Group	Number of pupils
Reception	14

1	6
2	11
3	13
4	12
5	10
6	5

The proposed increase is in line with the official sufficiency (capacity) assessment for the school which has a range of 52 to 80.

A copy of the formal request from Almeley Primary School is attached in Appendix 1

An increase in PAN will potentially have an impact upon other schools in the cluster/neighbouring primary schools:

School	PAN	1 <sup>st</sup> Pref 2010	Capacity	No. of pupils on roll (Spring 2010)
Eardisley	15	11	105	61
Kington	30	20	210	208
Pembridge	13	15	91	96
Weobley	30	11	210	140

#### **(b) Canon Pyon V C Primary School**

Canon Pyon V C Primary School has requested a reduction in its PAN from 13 to 12. A PAN of 12 would give a school capacity of 84 pupil places.

For information the current makeup of places to be offered for its new year R starting in September 2010 is:

Category	Number
Statemented child	0
Catchment Sibling	5
Catchment	1
Sibling Out of Area	1
Out of Area	3

Total	10
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There are currently a total of 77 pupils on roll made up as follows:

Year Group	Number of pupils
Reception	11
1	13
2	14
3	13
4	5
5	8
6	13

The proposed reduction is in line with the official sufficiency (capacity) assessment for the school and also reflects the reduction in current and forecasted demand for places and will have no impact upon neighbouring primary schools.

A copy of the formal request from Canon Pyon V C Primary School is attached in Appendix 1.

A reduction in PAN will have no impact upon other schools in the cluster/neighbouring primary schools:

School	PAN	1 <sup>st</sup> Pref 2010	Capacity	No. of pupils on roll (Spring 2010)
Burghill	15	14	105	84
Dilwyn	8	4	56	31
Ivington	15	17	105	84
Wellington	28	11	196	93
Weobley	30	11	210	140

### (c) Madley Primary School

Madley Primary School has requested an increase in its PAN from 24 to 26.

For information the current makeup of places to be offered for its new year R starting in September 2010 is:

Category	Number
Stamented child	0
Catchment Sibling	6
Catchment	8
Sibling Out of Area	7
Out of Area – Special Reasons	1
Out of Area	4
Total	26

The current sufficiency calculation for the school gives it a capacity in the range 159 to 210 i.e. a range in the PAN of 23 to 30.

Contextual data for the above mentioned school and Cluster schools:

School	PAN	1 <sup>st</sup> Pref 2010	Capacity	No. of pupils on roll (Spring 2010)
Clifford	10	12	70	64
Clehonger	28 (21)	15	196	119
Credenhill	30	36	210	179
Kingstone & Thrupton Primary	30	27	210	170
Peterchurch Primary	15	19	105	64
Staunton-on-Wye Primary	10	70	10	70
Stretton Sugwas	15	20	105	106

There are currently a total of 185 pupils on roll made up as follows:

Year Group	Number of pupils
Reception	28
1	30

2	26
3	27
4	24
5	25
6	25

Years Groups with more than 24 pupils are as a result of successful parental appeals.

A copy of the formal request from Madley Primary School is attached in Appendix 1.

Please note the four most relevant sections of the new School Admissions Code regarding PAN increases:

1.19 in the case of maintained schools, the local authority, as the strategic commissioner of school places, has the final decision over whether a school can admit above its published admission number. For Academies the final decision rests with the Secretary of State. Admission authorities **must** consider the overall effect on the school in continually admitting over the admission number and where they admit more than a total of 26 children above their admission number in any three year period, they **must** determine a higher admission number at the next opportunity. Admitting above the admission number does not amount to an increase in the school's admission number which can only be changed via the determination of admission arrangements or once determined, for a maintained school, via a referral to the Schools Adjudicator.

1.20 It is proposed that statutory proposals will no longer be required for schools that wish to increase their published admission number by 27 or more pupils<sup>17</sup>. However, statutory proposals are still required for schools proposing an enlargement to their premises which would increase the physical capacity of the school by more than 30 pupils and either by 25 per cent or by 200 pupils (whichever is the lesser). Any admission authority wishing to increase a school's published admission number can propose to do so during the consultation and determination of admission arrangements for all schools in the area. Consultation requirements are set out in paragraphs 1.25 to 1.30. The governing bodies of community and voluntary controlled schools for whom the local authority is the admissions authority can make representations to the local authority to increase their published admission number by writing to them with their proposal. Although the local authority, as the admissions authority, will determine the final published admission number of the school, section 88H of the SSFA allows for community and voluntary controlled schools to object to the Schools Adjudicator if they do not agree with the admissions number which has been determined for them (see Chapter 4).

1.21 If an admission authority for a maintained school wishes to increase the admission number of a school after their admission arrangements have been determined, as a result of a major change in circumstance, they **must** refer a variation to do this to the Schools Adjudicator (see paragraphs 4.23 to 4.27), except in very limited circumstances. The determination by the Schools Adjudicator **should** follow the approval by the local authority of any related proposals for enlargement of the school. A request to the Schools

Adjudicator to increase admission numbers **should not** delay the local authority in co-ordinating admissions in order to make all offers to parents.

1.22 Local authorities and the Schools Adjudicator, when making decisions over setting an admission number or admitting above them, **should** have regard to the presumption that proposals to expand successful and popular schools, except grammar schools, **should** be approved. The existence of surplus capacity in neighbouring schools **should not** in itself be sufficient to prevent expansion, but the local authority **should** consider how they can take parallel action to remove surplus places.

#### **Comment**

It is noted that in the PAN reduction request case from Canon Pylon the revised PAN meets the needs of children from the catchment area.

In the two PAN increase request cases the revised PAN's are not to meet demand from catchment children but rather from out of catchment parental preference children. The School Admissions Code expects Local Authorities to operate with a presumption of support to such requests to maximize parental preferences. Surplus capacity is meant to be addressed through other action in a strategic way pertinent to local circumstances.

## **Key Considerations**

The national timing for consultation does not allow these requests to be delayed to tie in with school cluster discussions and any recommendations that may be made to Cabinet in October 2010. The request for a reduction in PAN reflects long term demographic trends.

Increases in PAN must be in accordance with the school's net capacity assessment, which is the case for Madley Primary School and Almeley. The LA has a duty to maximize parental preferences where possible.

## **Community Impact**

- 3 Potential impact on local traffic patterns caused by the movement of "out of catchment" pupils to schools where the PAN is increased and no spare capacity to buy "Vacant Seats" on contracted school transport exists.

## **Financial Implications**

- 4 There would be a reduction in funding at schools "losing" pupils to "more popular" where their PAN is increased – the "money follows the pupils"

## **Legal Implications**

- 5 See comments under Risk Management.

## **Risk Management**

- 6 The LA may be challenged in respect of its role to maximize parental preference wherever possible. However the LA must consider the implications of maximising parental preference within a strategic context. The work that results from Cabinet recommendations and the work

of school clusters will be key to providing an agreed strategy within which to consider increases in PANs in response to parental preferences.

## **Consultees**

7 Not applicable

## **Appendices**

8 Appendix 5.1 – Copies of school PAN change request letters

## **Background Papers**

None